(c) to what extent Government are aware that the growing need for exports require better and bigger grounds with hotels nearby; and

(d) the steps proposed to encourage exports through better exhibition grounds and trade fair organisation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Keeping in view the need for state-of-the-art Exhibition and Convention Centre, India Trade Promotion Organisation (ITPO) has formulated an Optimum Development Project for upgradation of existing facilities and creation of additional facilities at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi, which is under consideration of the Government. ITPO has set up exhibition facilities in Chennai and Bangalore in collaboration with Governments of Tamil Nadu and Karnataka respectively. A project for setting up of Trade Centre at Guwahati in Assam to cater to the needs of the North Eastern Region is under implementation. Establishment of an Exhibition-cum-Convention Centre in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh is under consideration of ITPO and Government of Madhya Pradesh.

Exports by leather industry

3349. SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state

(a) whether the leather industry proposes to double its exports by 2010;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this industry also proposes to adopt global manufacturing practices to improve the quality of its products; and

(d) the status of this industry in Orissa and what is the action plan of Government to help this backward State to improve this sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) The Council for Leather

Exports has projected an export target of US $ 5080 million for the leather sector in 2010-11 as compared to the achievement of US $ 2380 million in 2004-05.

(c) and (d) The industry has shown a willingness to adopt global manufacturing practices to improve the quality of its products. To support such initiatives, a scheme called "Benchmarks for production units in the Indian leather sector" is being implemented by the Central Leather Research Institute under the Integrated Leather Development Programme for the Tenth Five Year Plan period. The industry in all the states, including Orissa, can benefit from the scheme.

Export to Latin American Countries

3350. DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to boost export of Indian Goods in Latin American countries;

(b) if so, the details of problems being faced by Indian exporters to reach to distant Latin American countries; and

(c) the steps Government propose to take to boost export of goods and services in Latin American countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) There is no major problem reported in effecting exports to the Latin American countries except for the high transportation costs on account of the long distances involved. To boost Indian exports to this region, an integrated programme called "Focus LAC" was initiated in 1997, under which exchanges of trade delegations, participation in trade fairs/exhibitions, organisation of buyer-seller meets etc. are being carried out.

Licenses to Manufacture Gutka

3351. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state: